ECSTASY:hearts

19
Guilt

Koizumi Residence
2:35 A.M. Tokyo

Sign: Koizumi

Ding..
Dong..
Ding..
Dong..
Ding..
Dong..
Ding..
Dong..
Toru! It's me, Nathan.
Can we talk?
Ding..
Dong..

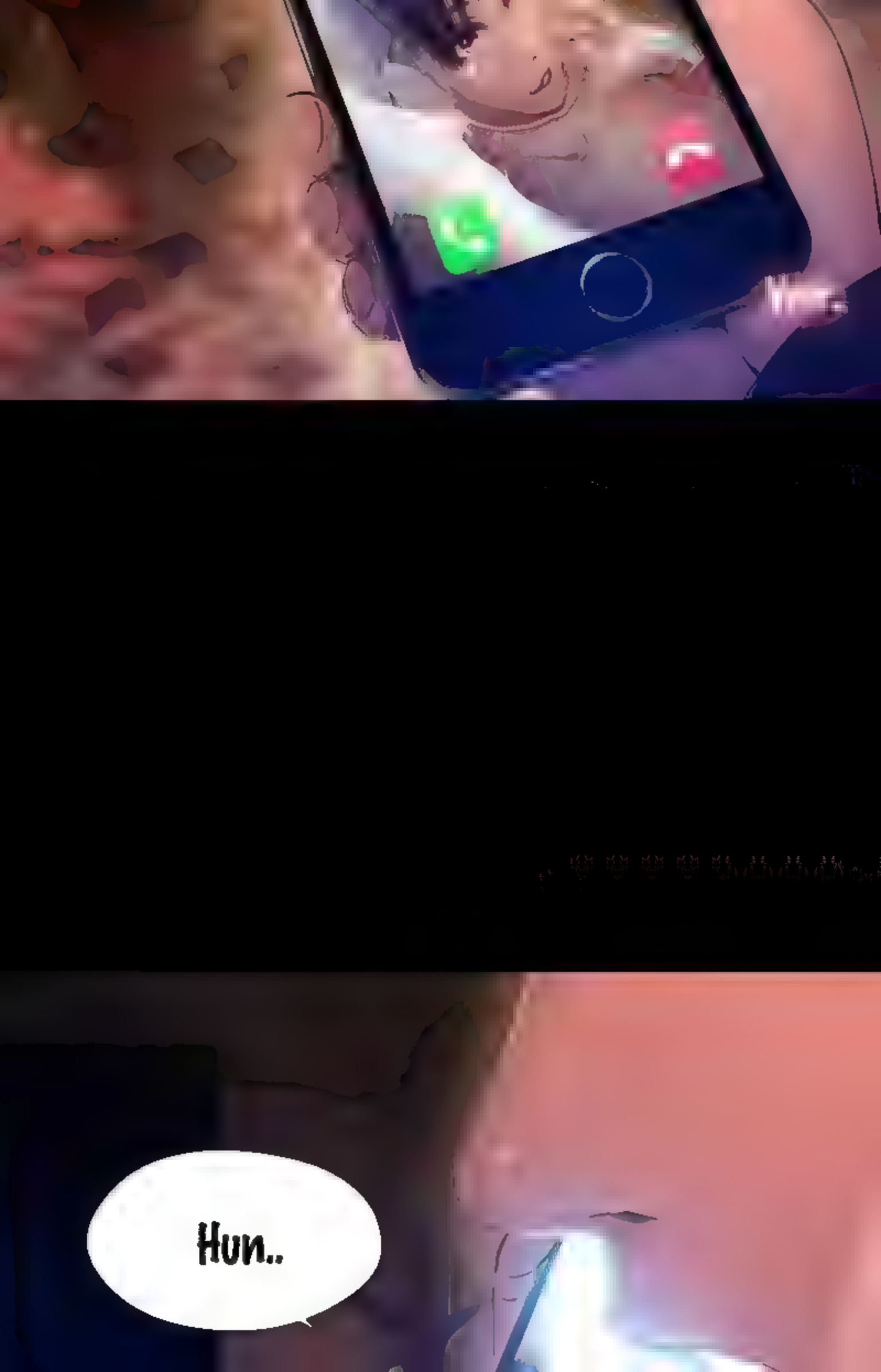
Ding..
Dong..
...
It's not locked?

I'm coming in.

Toru?
You home?

Vrrr..

Vrrr..
Vrrr..
Vrrr..
...
Vrrr..
Vrrr..
Incoming Call...
Ayane


Hun..

How are things going there?
Is everything alright?

I miiiiissss youuu~
There's no other way to say it.
And I.....
I can't deny it.
Shut up, honey.

Nathan,
are you there?
Is the child safe?
I just arrived.
Nothing seems unusual
but I feel uneasy.
Hun..
Kenzou said
"someone" spoke with
Toru, right?
How were they able to
convince him?
He's not the type to trust easily.
Who do you think the person
he spoke with? Any idea?

...Sumire?
I don't think so.

Sumire is brilliant but she's just a kid.
Nevermind. For now our concern is the child's safety.
That aside Nathan, remember this will be the last time I'm letting you see your ex-lover, understood?

Don't get any ideas.
I'm not jealous.
I just had enough getting involved with those stupid rumours.
I'm fed up.
Yeah,
I know.

I'm here
for the child.
Nothing more.
Okay.
I'm hanging up
now. Anya fell
asleep.
Be careful.
Okay?

I will
Hun,
I lov-..

Geez..

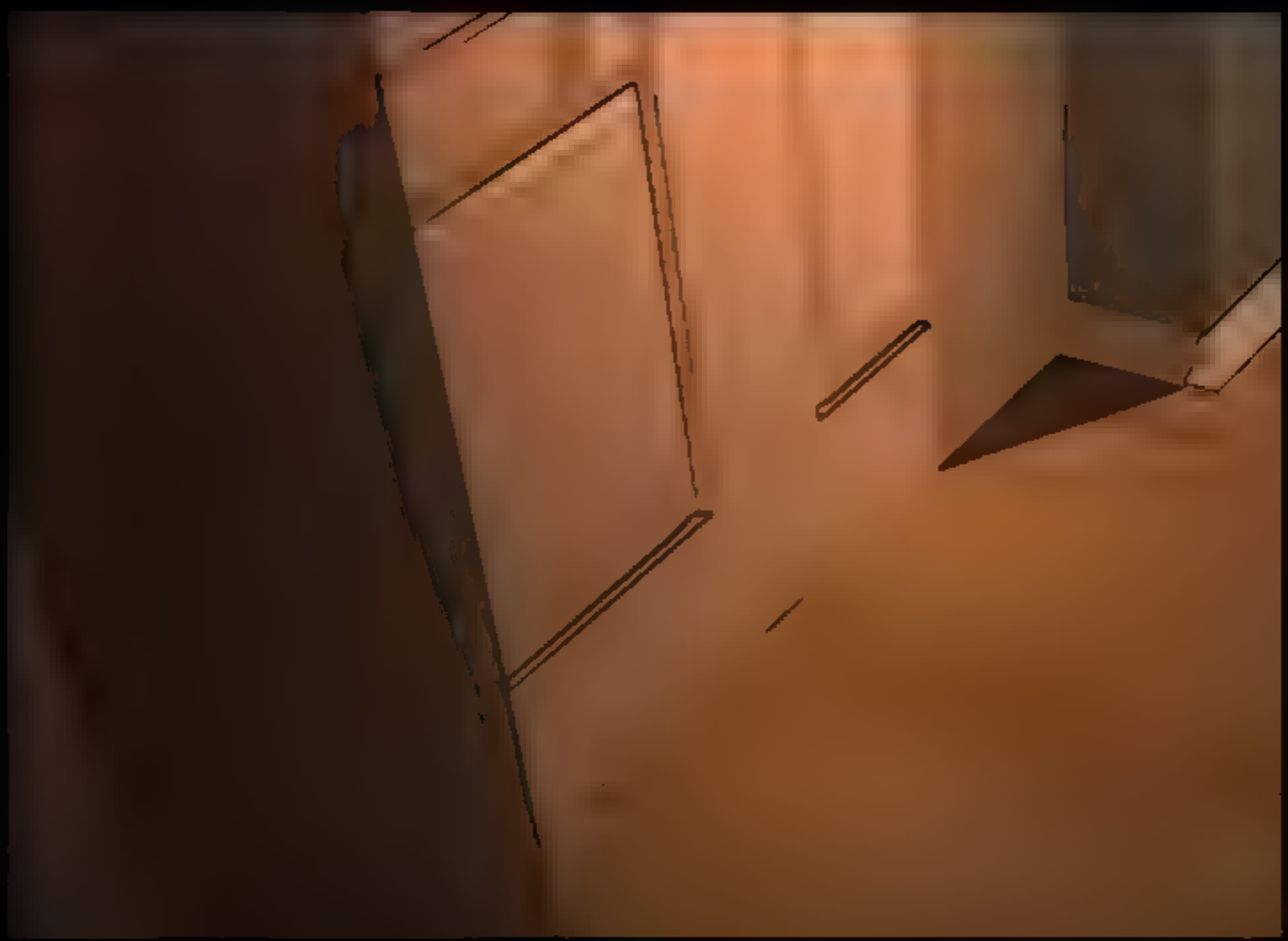
Toru!
This place sure is big.

Anybody home?
Toru!

Was Kenzou lying!? The place looks peaceful to me.

I might be worrying for nothing.
Toru?

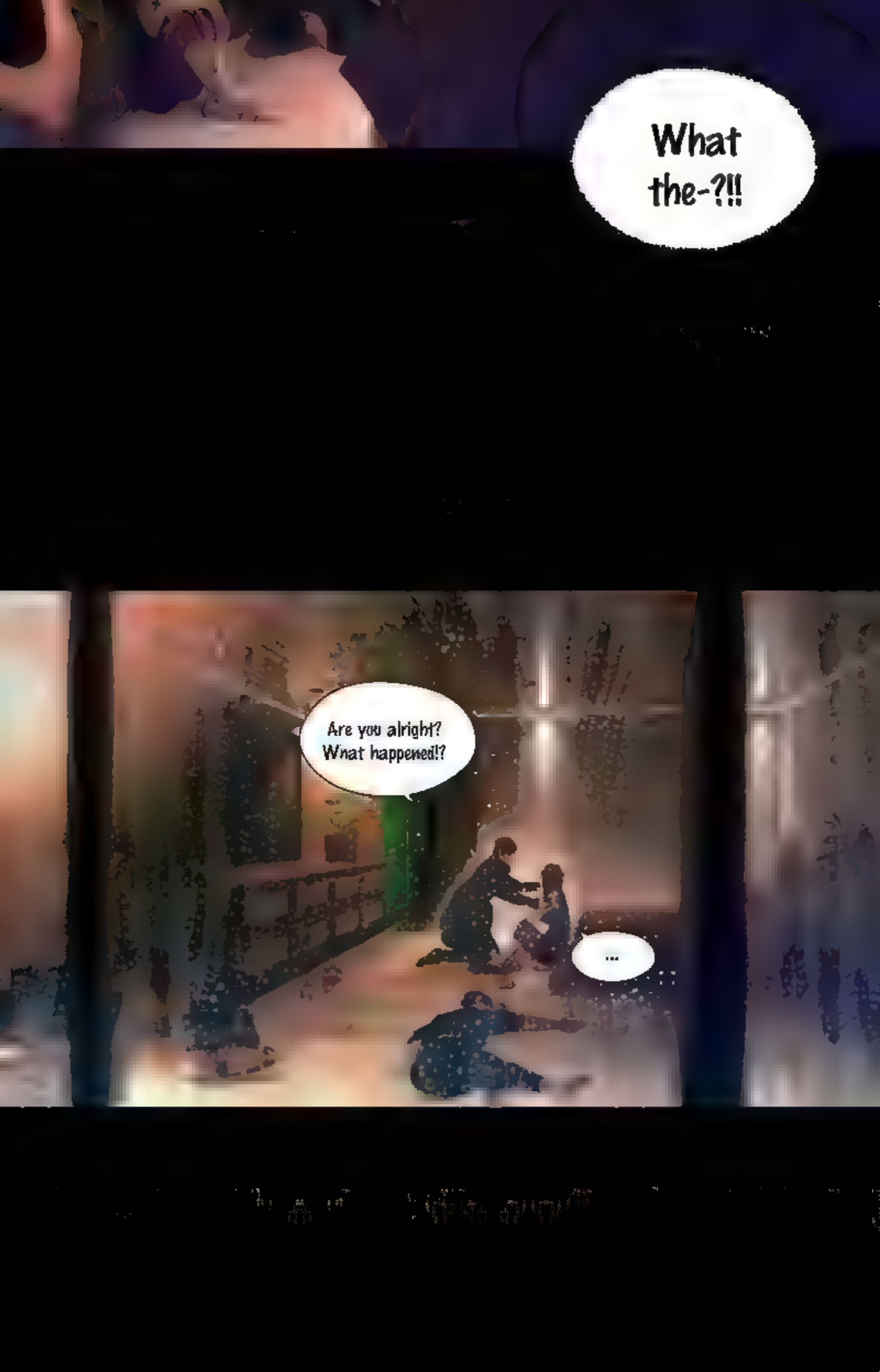
Sara?

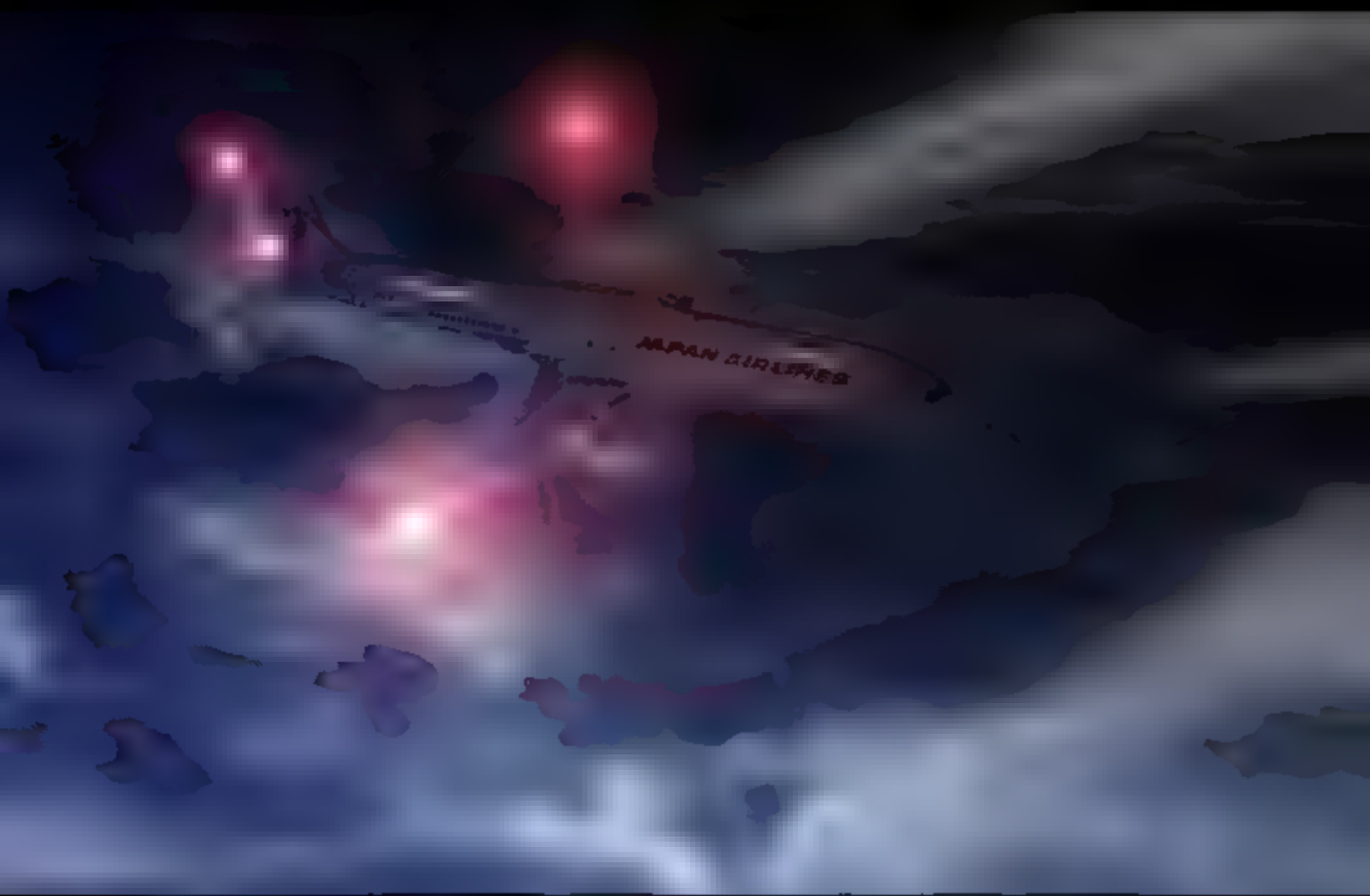


Sara?

Sara!
Is everything alright?

Sa-...

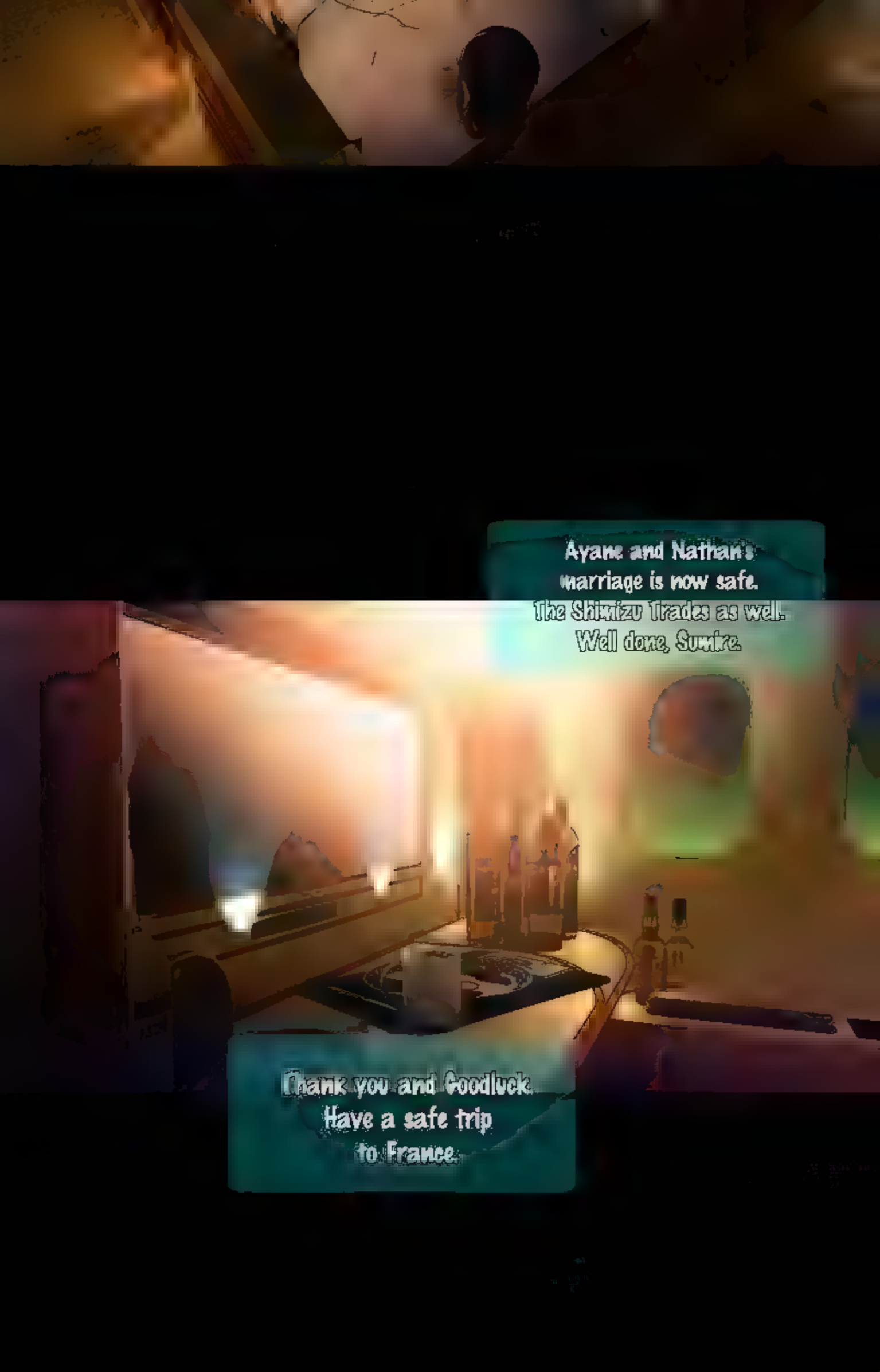

What the-?!!
Are you alright? What happened!?
...

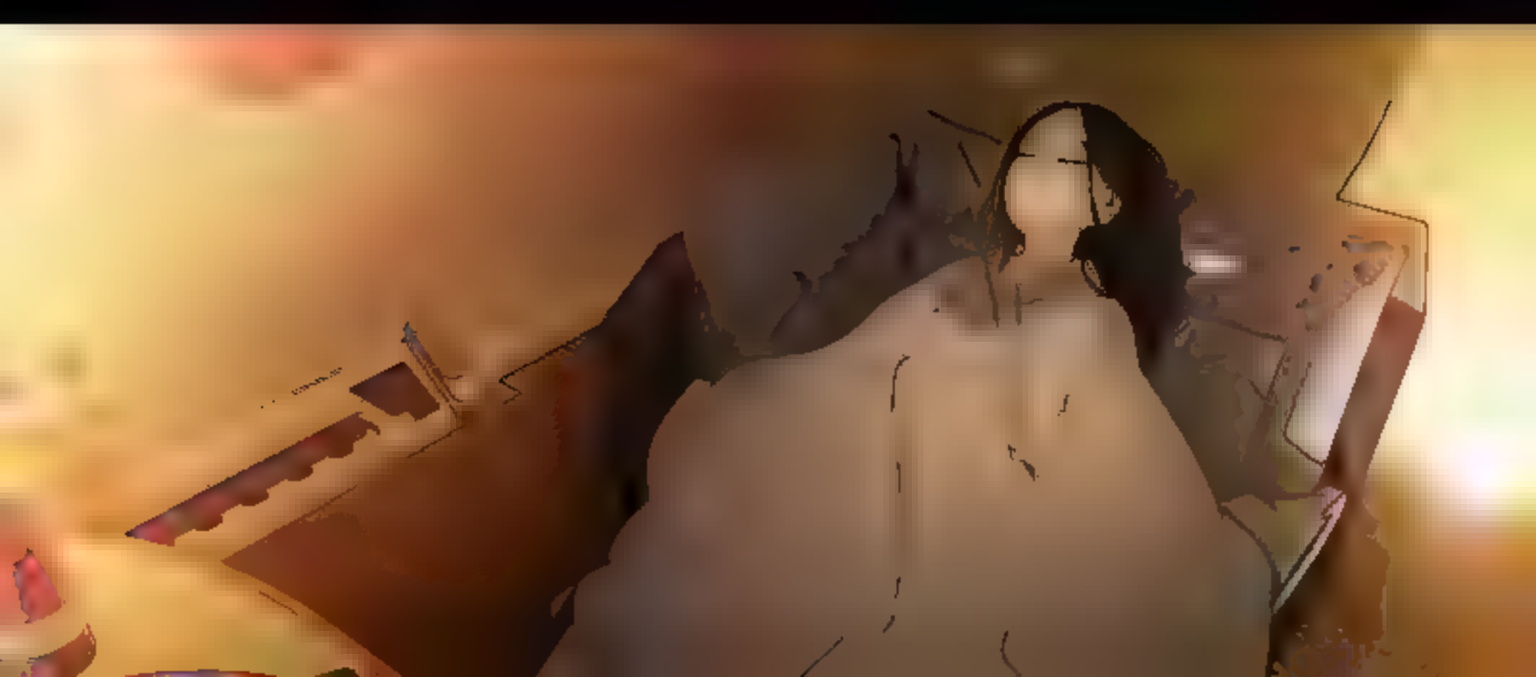


It's your
Grandfather.
A voice message for you.
Don't you want to hear
the good news?
Mom,
I'm too tired.
Give me a break.

We have to celebrate..
I am the proudest Mother
on Earth right now.
Come on.
Just hear it.

Is that true?
Fine,
Let's hear it.
As expected from my successor!
Your plan worked, Sumire.
I'm impressed.


Ayane and Nathan's
marriage is now safe.
The Shimizu Trades as well.
Well done, Sumire.
Thank you and Goodluck.
Have a safe trip
to France.



Why do I feel this way?
I should be happy and content
now that I protected Anya.

But why do I feel so heavy inside.

I don't understand.

Nathaniel..
I felt sorry for him.
To protect Aunt Ayane and Uncle Nathan's marriage, he paid the price.

If only he wasn't Nathan's illegitimate child...
..we could have been "friends".

To be continued..

Story and art: Silent

Credits to:
Gary Moore (3D Room Model)